

1272.C0499

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
HIDEAKI OKAMOTO, ET AL.)
Application No.: NYA)
Filed: Concurrently Herewith)
For: STRUCTURE AND MANUFACTURE)
METHOD THEREFOR, LIQUID)
TANK AND MANUFACTURE)
METHOD THEREFOR, INK JET)
APPARATUS AND)
MANUFACTURE METHOD)
THEREFOR, AND HEAD)
CARTRIDGE AND IMAGE)
FORMING APPARATUS)

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Group Art Unit: NYA
December 27, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified application
as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 20, 50, 51, 60, 62, 71, 72, 73, and 75-77 to read as
follows. A marked-up version of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto,
is attached.

20. (Amended) A structure characterized by being constructed using the manufacture method as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 17.

50. (Amended) A liquid tank characterized by being constructed using the manufacture method as claimed in any one of claims 35-42 and 44-47.

51. (Amended) An ink jet apparatus characterized by comprising a negative-pressure generating mechanism that exerts negative pressure on a liquid tank as claimed in any one of claims 21, 22, 26, 27, 30 and 31 to introduce a liquid into the liquid tank.

60. (Amended) The ink jet apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 52, 56 and 59, characterized in that said gas-liquid separating element comprises PTFE.

62. (Amended) The ink jet apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 52, 56 and 59, characterized in that said liquid tank is stored ink or a treatment liquid that orients a print property of the ink on a print medium.

71. (Amended) An ink jet apparatus characterized by being constructed using the manufacture method as claimed in any one of claims 63 to 68.

72. (Amended) A head cartridge characterized by comprising:
a liquid tank as claimed in any one of claims 21, 22, 26, 27, 30 and 31; and
a liquid ejecting head having an ejection opening that ejects a liquid supplied by said liquid tank.

73. (Amended) A head cartridge characterized by comprising a liquid ejecting head having an ejection opening that ejects a liquid supplied by a liquid tank as claimed in any one of claims 52 to 59.

75. (Amended) An image forming apparatus characterized by comprising:
a carrying portion which a liquid tank as claimed in any one of claims 21, 22, 26, 27, 30 and 31 and liquid ejecting head having an ejection opening for ejecting a liquid supplied from the liquid tank are attachable; and
means for moving the liquid ejecting head with respect to the print medium.

76. (Amended) An image forming apparatus characterized by comprising:
a carrying portion which a liquid tank of an ink jet apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 52 to 59 and liquid ejecting head having an ejection opening for ejecting a liquid supplied from the liquid tank are attachable; and
means for relatively moving the liquid ejecting head to the print medium.

77. (Amended) An image forming apparatus characterized by comprising:
a carrying portion which a head cartridge as claimed in claim 72 is attachable; and
means for relatively moving the head cartridge to the print medium.

REMARKS

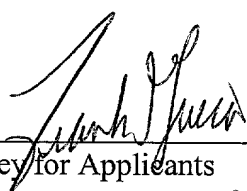
Claims 20, 50, 51, 60, 62, 71, 72, 73, and 75-77 have been amended to place those claims in proper multiply-dependent form and/or to correct minor grammatical

errors. Those changes have not been made for purposes related to patentability.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

20. (Amended) A structure characterized by being constructed using the manufacture method as claimed in any one of claims 11 to [19] 17.

50. (Amended) A liquid tank characterized by being constructed using the manufacture method as claimed in any one of claims [35 to 49] 35-42 and 44-47.

51. (Amended) An ink jet apparatus characterized by comprising a negative-pressure generating mechanism that exerts negative pressure on a liquid tank as claimed in any one of claims [21 to 34 and claim 50] 21, 22, 26, 27, 30 and 31 to introduce a liquid into the liquid tank.

60. (Amended) The ink jet apparatus as claimed in any one of claims [51,] 52, 56 and 59, characterized in that said gas-liquid separating element comprises PTFE.

62. (Amended) The ink jet apparatus as claimed in any one of claims [51,] 52, 56 and 59, characterized in that said liquid tank is stored ink or a treatment liquid that orients a print property of the ink on a print medium.

71. (Amended) An ink jet apparatus characterized by being constructed using the manufacture method as claimed in any one of claims 63 to [70] 68.

72. (Amended) A head cartridge characterized by comprising:

a liquid tank as claimed in any one of claims [21 to 34 and claim 50] 21, 22, 26, 27, 30 and 31; and

a liquid ejecting head having an ejection opening that ejects a liquid supplied by said liquid tank.

73. (Amended) A head cartridge characterized by comprising a liquid ejecting head having an ejection opening that ejects a liquid supplied by a liquid tank as claimed in any one of claims [51 to 62 and claim 71] 52 to 59.

75. (Amended) An image forming apparatus characterized by comprising:
a carrying portion which a liquid tank as claimed in any one of claims [21 to 34 and claim 50] 21, 22, 26, 27, 30 and 31 and liquid ejecting head having an ejection opening for ejecting a liquid supplied from the liquid tank are attachable; and
means for moving the liquid ejecting head with respect to the print medium.

76. (Amended) An image forming apparatus characterized by comprising:
a carrying portion which a liquid tank of an ink jet apparatus as claimed in any one of claims [51 to 62 and claim 71] 52 to 59 and liquid ejecting head having an ejection opening for ejecting a liquid supplied from the liquid tank are attachable; and
means for relatively moving the liquid ejecting head to the print medium.

77. (Amended) An image forming apparatus characterized by comprising:
a carrying portion which a head cartridge as claimed in claim 72 is attachable; and
means for relatively moving the head cartridge to the print medium.